NEW-ENGLAND FARMER.

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NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

PROPER TIME FOR CUTTING TIMBER.

To the Editor of the N. E. Farmer:

DEAR SIR—Having read an account of a meeting of the New York Farmers' Club, at which the proper season for felling trees was discussed, I have been induced to transcribe a letter I received several years since, on that subject, from Isaac Ilsley, Esq., of Portland—who was, at that time, the Collector of the Customs, and enclose it for publication; for I have been fully satisfied, from experience and the information I have received from persons residing in various parts of the Union, that for wood to be used as fuel, or in the arts, the trees should be felled when they are in full foliage, and never after they have ceased to grow.

Why the timber is more durable when trees are cut down in the summer, than in winter, is a question in vegetable physiology which has not been explained, and may not be; but the fact is beyond all doubt. We do not know the cause of light, heat, electricity, magnetism, or gravitation: the *effects* are recognized, and to them we assign names; but are utterly incapable of explaining the cause.

The age for theorizing has gone by, and philosophers now ask only for facts, in the belief that when enough of these have been accumulated, principles may be established, and possibly a correct theory formed; but whether it is or not, the results will ever be interesting and valuable; for they may be rendered useful in their application to the arts, or for the purposes of science.

It matters not to the mariner, *why* the needle of his compass points to the north; for all he requires is, that quality in a magnetized piece of steel, to guide him over the deep. The fact, that it is ever directed toward the North, would not be rendered more certain, in his estimation, by any explanation of the real cause.

Thus should it be as to the season of the year when trees are to be felled, to render the wood most durable as the material for building ships or houses, and for every other purpose. It is a fact to be ascertained by experiment, and if either the summer or winter should be found to be that favorable season, let it be adopted; and whether man can explain the reason why, or not, is of little practical consequence.

With great respect, your most ob't serv't,

H. A. S. DEARBORN.

Hawthorn Cottage, Roxbury, Jan. 17, 1846.

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Portland, March, 1837.

MY DEAR SIR,—I yesterday received your letter of the 2d inst., asking information as to the proper season for felling trees for timber, and with much pleasure I will relate all the facts I have on that important subject.

Near the close of the revolutionary war, my father built a ship of green oak timber. The trees were felled in the months of June and July; the bark was peeled off, and such of the logs as were to be sawed into plank, were hauled to the mill, and the timber for the frame of the ship to the yard; and in about thirty days the ship was completed under the wales: the whole of the materials were green from the forest.

For some cause, the persons who had contracted for the ship, thought proper to suspend further progress, and she remained on the stocks, exposed to the weather, until the next year, when she was completed. It was found that neither the timbers or plank had shrunk, and the seams remained as close as at the time the planks were put on—the timbers dry, and even the sap-wood of the planks tough and hard like horn. The ship was owned in Salem; but whether she proved to be long-lived, I have not ascertained.

A few years since, I took from the Custom House books, the names of three brigs, which were the oldest vessels belonging to the port, and then applied to the owners to ascertain their condition. The accounts received were, that they were then all sound, and considered good vessels. The ages were 23, 26 and 30 years. On applying to the ship-builders, I found that they had all been constructed with green timber direct from the forest, and all of it felled in the early part of the summer.

I am fully of the belief, that timber for ship-building, and for most other purposes, should be felled, or girdled, at the season of the year when the bark will peel freely, for such timber is heavier and stronger than when cut in the winter season, or in cold weather. Hard wood for fuel, is valuable in proportion to its weight: I therefore generally select such as has been felled in the summer; and this is ascertained by the appearance of the ends of the wood, though it may be perfectly dry; for they will appear bright and lively; and the wood is much heavier than that felled in winter—the ends of which will appear dark and musty.

I find that cord-wood haulers understand the difference in the weight of wood felled in different seasons of the year. I have repeatedly tried to engage my fuel to be felled in summer, and the men have uniformly declined, for the reason that the wood is heavier, and they prefer hauling *green* wood, felled in the winter, to the *dry* wood, felled in the summer.

Respectfully, your ob't serv't,

ISAAC ILSLEY.

GEN. H. A. S. DEARBORN.

☞We are obliged to Gen. Dearborn for the foregoing communications upon a subject of great and general interest. The positions assumed, and the facts cited in their support, do not agree with our own opinions upon the subject treated of; but "facts are stubborn things"—and we are not inclined to attack the soundness of those above adduced, with so weak a weapon as our own mere opinions. Yet we will venture to say, that were we to attempt a search for facts sustaining a different ground from that taken in the foregoing, relative to the best time for cutting timber, we could muster at least as formidable an array of them as is above presented,—but yet they might be insufficient to make a convert to our belief, and far from being conclusively decisive of the question in dispute, upon which we invite others to give us their opinions and their experience.—ED. FAR.

ADDRESS

Before the Berkshire Agricultural Society, October 2, 1845.

BY HON. ASAHEL FOOTE, JR.

(Concluded.)

Again: agriculture, rightly pursued, *is eminently conducive to mental enlargement.*

No sentiment of mankind is more erroneous than that (and it is by no means uncommon,) which supposes, not only that the practice of agriculture is unfriendly to intellectual culture, but that to the cultivator of the soil such culture is unnecessary. In opposition to this sentiment, so dishonorable to the farmer, I declare it as my settled conviction, that in no occupation of life is knowledge so varied and extensive demanded, and that in no other profession, those perhaps excepted which make the acquisition of knowledge their exclusive object of pursuit, are there presented so great advantages, and so strong inducements for the intellectual cultivation of the higher faculties. True it is that to all other classes of men the sources of knowledge are equally open; but while this is true, it is not to be supposed that men will devote themselves to the attainment of knowledge which is not to be of practical utility in the pursuit of their chosen avocations. And in this respect the cultivator of the soil has a manifest advantage over the tradesman, the artificer, and the professional man; for, while the knowledge requisite in their pursuits is, in general, confined to particular subjects, limited in number, the knowledge applicable to the business of the farmer is varied as are the objects of his pursuit, and the circumstances of nature on which the successful prosecution of those objects depends. So that in addition to the fact, that to him, as well as to others, every common source of knowledge is open, he has a stimulus unknown to other men to urge him on to the pursuit of universal science, and especially to make him at the oracle of Nature an universal inquirer.

That *science*, which in all past time has been regarded as the rightful monopoly of the learned professions, and of certain of the fine arts, and which has only been associated in the minds of men with the seclusions of learning and the retirements of philosophy—that *science*, I say, should be claimed to sustain so intimate a relationship to agriculture, "that simple art," and to present so urgent claims to the attention of *the cultivator of the soil*, may seem quite arrogant to him who has been accustomed to think that to the farmer "*ignorance* is bliss," and may even excite the wonder of those farmers themselves, who deem it heresy to depart from the beaten track of their fathers, and undoubted orthodoxy to follow any practice, however absurd to the eye of reason, if it but have the sanction of their *grandfathers* too: but to him whose independent spirit overleaps the moss-grown barriers of usage, and presumes to regulate his conduct by untrammeled reason, and especially to him whose eye has been attracted by the new direction which philosophy has taken in the nineteenth century, it will appear most rational and just.

But why should it, by any one, be thought absurd that agriculture should admit of improvement; that such improvement should result from the adoption of certain fixed principles, and that for those principles we should be indebted to *science*, or a true *knowledge of nature?* We believe the universe to have been established by an Infinite Intelligence, and we know that every portion of it is subjected to order and system. The world in which we live is *a world of laws;* of laws so extensive, and yet so minute in their application, that not a particle of matter escapes their all-pervading governance. It is in subordination to these laws that "while the earth remaineth, seed-time and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall continue"—in subordination to these, that all the periodical changes and uniform transformations which we witness in nature around us, take place,—in subordination to these laws that the elements conspire to effect the germination, increase and maturity of every plant that rises from the ground, and that the vegetable productions of the earth sustain the life, promote the growth, and minister to the comfort and happiness of the animal creation—and neither vegetable nor animal perfection can consist with the violation of these laws. Hence the evident importance of a knowledge of these laws to man, and especially to the husbandman, whose it is, as received from the hand of his Maker, "to till the ground," to preside over the animal and vegetable kingdoms, and to provide for the sustenance of the human family. These all-pervading laws of which I speak, when classified and grouped together, constitute what are called the "Natural Sciences." For a farmer to study the natural sciences, therefore, is but to acquaint himself with *those laws of nature* to which all his operations are subject, and on whose observance all his success must forever depend.

How reasonable, then, nay how important, how absolutely indispensable, to the perfection of his art, that the tiller of the soil should be *a man of science;* not a "book farmer," if any one dislike that epithet, but a farmer who diligently consults *the book of nature*, and instead of submitting himself to the guidance of sightless, mindless, stumbling *chance*, is guided by fixed principles—principles which cannot mislead him; by laws as immutable as are the foundations of the earth itself. And how does this view of the subject cast contempt upon that shallow estimate which has sometimes been put upon the farmer's art; and how does it rebuke the narrow-minded policy of those governments which hold out no encouragement for the improvement of this art of arts, and which would leave the tiller of the soil to occupy a common level with the brutes he drives before the plow.

Were it consistent with the limits assigned me, I would invite my fellow-farmers to accompany me through the rich store-houses of agricultural knowledge—which modern science has endowed, and ask them to survey with me the several departments of Geology, Mineralogy, Chemistry, Botany, vegetable and animal Physiology, Entomology, Mechanics, &c., all of which are virtually connected with their art, and indispensable to its perfection: but I forbear. Let it be permitted me, however, to urge it upon them, and especially upon the young farmers of Berkshire, to "think of these things," and in their hours of leisure to avail themselves of *the profits*, as well as the pleasures of that rich field of science, of useful and entertaining knowledge, which lies thus invitingly before them.

Once more: agriculture is profitable, in that *it has a direct tendency to the moral improvement of man.* To this end, it contributes, in the first place negatively, by locating the farmer *in the country*, and thus withdrawing him from all those influences unfriendly to virtue, which are known to be ever multiplied and strengthened in proportion as men become congregated in masses, and the means of animal gratification are concentrated; and, in the second place, positively, by the direct tendency of his position and employment to promote simplicity of manners, regularity of habits, moderation in his desires and in the indulgence of his appetites, and to inspire him with sentiments of justice, patriotism, philanthropy and piety. Depending for subsistence, not upon the gains of commerce, not upon the success with which he can drive a rival trade, or compete with his fellows in professional life, but upon the direct rewards of Providence to his honest industry, he is exempted, in a good degree, from those trials to temper and to integrity, and to those temptations to avarice and venality, to over-reaching and injustice, to jealousy, envy, hatred and strife, which often prove too strong for the virtue of other men. His greatest interest lying in the soil which he cultivates, the love of country is with him but a natural sentiment; his only rivalry with his fellow-men being that of kind offices, he is under no temptation to indulge the feelings of misanthropy; and led by his employment constantly to "look through nature up to nature's God," he is restrained from infidelity and irreligion.

The influence of these circumstances on the moral character of the agricultural class is not imaginary. Jefferson, who was a shrewd observer of men, has declared, that, "generally speaking, the proportion which other citizens bear in the State to that of husbandmen, is the proportion of its unsound and unhealthy parts, and is a good enough barometer by which to measure its degree of corruption;" and it is a matter of notoriety, that while the agricultural class composes the very great majority of our population, the proportion which it furnishes to our pauper and criminal lists is very small indeed.

The pursuit of agriculture is profitable, in the fifth place, considered as *a source of pecuniary advantage.*

It is not to be pretended that agriculture holds out any very great inducement to those "that make haste to be rich." Sudden wealth is seldom among its achievements. But though its gains be slow, they are in general more sure than those of other pursuits, for which the simple reason is sufficient, that the products of agricultural labor consisting of the prime necessaries of life, the farmer is always sure of a market for his surplus, at some price, and cannot ultimately fail of the reward of his labors. True, his annual net profits may not be large; but if proper industry be practiced out of doors, and due economy within, it is seldom that the farmer will not be able at the end of the year to "report progress": and "the farmer," says Buel, "who secures an annual and increasing income by his industry, though it be small in the outset, is much more likely to become ultimately rich, than the man of almost any other profession in life." Nothing is more common than for young men ambitious of making their fortunes, to imagine that, in order to attain with certainty the object of their wishes, they must betake themselves to mercantile pursuits. But well-authenticated facts go to show that, in giving this direction to their pursuits, they are very likely to be disappointed; for it appears from reliable sources, that "in our own country, every twenty years witnesses the *insolvency* of the whole aggregate trading community"—and Gen. Dearborn has stated, as the result of accurate investigation, that "of those who have gained their livelihood by *selling*, ninetyseven out of every one hundred have failed, or died insolvent."

Of the average per centum of profit realized by the aggregate of farmers on the capital invested in their business, we have not perhaps, sufficient data upon which to base a very certain estimate. It is supposed, however, by those best qualified to give an opinion on the subject, not to fall short of 6 to 8 per cent. But while the average may not exceed, or possibly may fall below this estimate, it is well known that under skillful management, a profit much greater than this is often realized—amounting, in given instances, to 15, 20, and even 30 per cent. The greater the skill employed, the greater, of course, will be the profit, and vice versa.

In Great Britain, notwithstanding that her soil, by nature inferior to ours, has been subjected to a thousand croppings, to such a state of perfection has her agriculture, by the aids of science, been brought, we are told that "five million, of all ages, produce annually, from her limited soil, $700,000,000 worth of agricultural produce, averaging about $140 to every man, woman and child of her agricultural population."

Let American farmers, then, emulate the examples of improvement set them on the other side of the waters—let them call to their aid the lights of science, as the farmers of the old world are doing, and bring up their art, by every available means, to that state of perfection of which it is capable, and instead of being dissatisfied with the profits of their occupation, and casting a wishful eye upon other pursuits, they will soon find themselves as ardent in their attachment to agriculture, if not as independent and *lordly*, as were the manufacturers of England in the time of Edward VI—of whom that monarch complains that "the artificer will leave the town, and for his mere pastime will live in the country; yea, more than that, will be *a justice of the peace*, and will scorn to have it denied them, so *lordly* be they now-a-days; for they are not satisfied with 2000 sheep, but they must have 20,000, or else they think themselves not well."

The pursuit of agriculture is profitable, finally, in that, *above all other pursuits, it conduces to man's true happiness.*

Says the elegant and talented Roscoe—who had himself experienced the pleasures, not only of polite literature, but of practical agriculture—"If I were asked whom I consider the happiest of the human race, I should answer, those who cultivate the soil with their own hands." And why should not the cultivator of the soil be the happiest of men?

> "In a sweet healthy air, with a farm of his own,
> Secluded from tumult and strife,
> The farmer, more blest than the king on his throne,
> Enjoys all the comforts of life."

Ah, these are true elements of a happy life, after all—*independence, quiet, comfort!*—And where on earth are these to be found, if not in the possession of the farmer! As it regards the real "comforts of life," it is certain that he is the great *originator*, under Providence, of most of them, since they are the products, more or less directly, of the earth, and only come forth at *his* bidding. And as to independence and quiet, he may safely challenge a comparison with any other class of men. Who is independent and he is not, with respect to the substantial goods, the necessaries of life? It is

he alone that receives them *directly* from the hand of the Great Giver, and not till they have been *through his hands* are they to be enjoyed by other men. If he, then, who dwells *at the fountain* cannot drink abundantly, how shall *he* slake his thirst who only dwells beside the rill? He is independent, again, in that he has the exclusive direction and control of his own time and labors, and is not in any sense the servant of other men; which cannot be said of the tradesman, the artificer, and the man of professional life—since it is on the *patronage* of other classes, and chiefly of the agricultural, that they are severally dependent for the very basis of their pursuits. He is independent, in a good degree, of those conventional restraints of life, of *those manufactured wants*—those "heavy burdens grievous to be borne"—which impose so onerous a tax on what are commonly denominated "the higher classes of society." He is measurably independent of the disastrous influence of those vicissitudes and fluctuations, which not unfrequently involve a whole commercial or manufacturing community in embarrassment and distress. To the thousand annoyances and disquietudes attendant on every condition of public life he is a stranger; he feels not at his heart the corrosion of those bickerings and collisions to which the rivalry inseparable from most other employments gives birth. From the din and confusion of the city he is free: he knows not the misgivings of those whose fortunes are embarked upon the faithless waters, or exposed to the devouring flames; and least of all is he disquieted by the apprehension that, through some occurrence unforeseen, the foundation of his business may fail—for he has the guaranty of Omnipotence, that "while the earth remaineth, seed-time and harvest shall not cease."

Thus, placed in the midst of all that is delightful in nature, and innocent in society—furnished with a rational, dignified and honorable occupation—surrounded with the amplest means of physical, intellectual and moral culture, and blest with independence, peace and plenty, why should not the farmer be contented and happy? Says the late Chancellor Livingston, "If happiness is to be found on earth, it must certainly be sought in the indulgence of those benign emotions which are the reward of rural cares and rural labors."

Improvement of Clayey and Sandy Soils.—Old Boussingault knows a thing or two, (says "Abraham Smith," in the Western Cultivator,) but he has not satisfied the practical farmer how he might supply the defect of clay in sandy soil, and sand in clay soil. May I venture a hint, in homespun language? It is well known that there are certain vegetable matters that are quickly decomposed, as green clover, green oats, &c.; and others slow of decomposition, such as ripe timothy, rye straw, &c. It is also known that the defect in sandy soils is, principally, that the land lacks adhesion, and is too quick a conductor of heat and air, while the reverse is the defect in clay. Hence the remedy is indicated. With a clay soil, plow in hard woody substances, as ripe timothy, and plow in the fall. On a soil too sandy, plow under green manure, and plow at the time that the vegetable matter is fullest of sap; say clover in blossom or oats just beginning to head. Chemists can tell us why and wherefore, and a practical man may see the effect, if he will try.

A Dutch proverb says: "Stealing never makes a man rich, alms-giving never makes a man poor."

For the N. E. Farmer.

HERBIVOROUS ANIMALS AND THEIR CUD.

Mr Breck—In a book entitled "Sacred Philosophy of the Seasons," vol. 3d, page 32, is the following:—"Every one knows what is meant by ruminating, or chewing the cud; and I shall merely state, that animals of this description, which are all herbivorous, have their stomach divided into four, and always at least, into three, distinct cavities or chambers, the first of which serves as a receptacle for the grass or herbage, coarsely ground by the first mastication; and in the second of which, the mass, entered by degrees, is compressed, divided, and compacted into small balls, which are returned, by a voluntary action, into the mouth, to undergo the second process of mastication. During this operation, the animal reposes at ease, until the food it has taken has been all subjected to the like process. As soon as the ball is reground, it is swallowed directly into the third and fourth chambers, where it undergoes the digestive process."

It seems to be the opinion of farmers generally, that all ruminating animals bring the cud up from the stomach, when wanted. To this theory, for such it may be called, (for it is doubted whether any one knows it to be a *fact,)* there are several objections. Every one who has seen the stomach of a slaughtered beef creature opened, knows that there is hay, roots, (if the animal has not been long without eating,) and water, all mixed up together. Now, how can an animal separate from this mixed mess, the hay for a cud? The extract says, "until the food it has taken has been all subjected to the like process." This cannot be so, for an animal that has had as much as it will eat in the morning, would have to keep its jaws going the whole day, to bring up and remasticate what it had eaten in the morning—which is not the case: *it cannot be so.* An animal chews its cud but a very small part of the time. Take, for instance, an ox which has been fed with as much hay as he will eat, in the morning; put him to work: he will seldom be seen to chew his cud, except when stopped: feed him well at noon, work him in the afternoon, and it will be the same. What has become of the large quantity of hay he has eaten? Certainly he has not remasticated it—he has not had time and leisure to do it;—then what has become of it? It has gone as does all that he eats—digested, without being returned to the mouth.

Says the extract, "as soon as the ball is reground, it is swallowed directly into the third and fourth chambers." How can it go "directly into the third and fourth chambers," without passing through the first? If it goes "*directly* into the third and fourth chambers," there must be a passage for it directly from the throat—which is not so. I have paid considerable attention to the internal structure of animals, and have never found but one passage from the mouth to the stomach, and from that through the animal.

This theory of animals bringing up from the stomach their cud, and all that they have eaten, is new to me, and I doubts its correctness: I have always supposed that they had a secret place of deposit for the cud, where they could stow it away, and take it again at their pleasure.

On examination, I find this to be the case. Directly under the tongue is a little cavity, about as large as a hen's egg, with a very curious clapper, and there I found the cud; and there, probably, it will always be found, if the animal has had any thing to make one of within twentyfour hours of its being slaughtered.

LOVETT PETERS.

Westboro', Jan. 17, 1845.

POTATOES—SALT—GUANO.

A farmer of New Hampshire, writing to us, remarks:

"Year before last, my potatoes rotted badly—very badly. Having much faith in Mr Teschemacher's recommendation of the use of salt, &c. to destroy the fungi, I last year applied a very large spoonful of equal quantities of salt, lime and ashes to each hill, at the time of hoeing. Some few of the tops died during the summer, but when I dug them in the fall, there was scarcely a rotten potato to be found, and we have not found half a dozen affected ones since they were put in the cellar; but some of my neighbors have lost large quantities since they were stored in the cellar. But there are others, whose potatoes have escaped as well as mine, although they did not apply salt.

I experimented, somewhat, with the two barrels of guano, but the excessively dry weather of last summer, in a very great measure prevented that favorable action that I had reason to expect, from the numerous accounts I had read of it in English agricultural papers. Corn on very poor and dry land, dressed with guano at the rate of 300 lbs. per acre, yielded about 15 bushels per acre—without it, only a few "nubbins." On pumpkins, with a tablespoonful to the hill, I had a good crop—where none was applied, there were no pumpkins. A teaspoonful in the hill of corn where the land was well manured, had a most marked effect in the early part of the season, compared with rows that had none; but at harvest, there was no perceptible difference. Perhaps one of the most serious objections to its use here, will be our frequent dry summers."

Rules for those who write for Newspapers.—1. Before you commence, be sure that you have something to write about.

2. Write plain, dot your i's, cross your t's, point your sentences, and begin them with capitals.

3. Write short, to the point, and stop when you are done.

4. Write only on one side of the leaf.

5. Read it over, abridge and correct it, until you get it into the shortest space possible.—*Exch. pap.*

[*Note.*—We do not require the observance of the 4th rule, by those who write for our paper: it is most important for *daily* journals, where it is necessary to distribute the copy, if the article be lengthy, among several "compositors." The other rules we desire to have strictly observed,—for the credit of the writer, no less than for the benefit of the reader, the editor and the printer.]

Butternut or White Walnut.—This is an abundant tree in our country. Its sap affords sugar equal to the maple. The bark of the root of this tree will excite a blister, and the bark and shells of the nut dye a good brown color. A decoction of the inner bark is advantageously employed as a cathartic in the disease of horses called the *yellow water.*—*N. Y. Far. and Mech.*

Interesting.—A correspondent says, bulls do not have lice, and attributes their exemption to their throwing dirt on their backs. He has found the use of fine sand a remedy.—*Ib.*

For the New England Farmer.

DO RACES OF PLANTS DEGENERATE?

Mr Breck—I was not a little surprised, in reading the extract in your last, headed "Degeneration of Potatoes," to perceive that the distinguished botanist, Dr. Lindley, should deny that there is such a thing as degeneration in races of plants, a belief in which so generally prevails among fruit culturists, that I have seldom found one who held the opposite theory.

In the extract alluded to, Prof. Lindley says:

"In reality there is no proof in any part of the vegetable kingdom that the races of plants wear out. Such an opinion was entertained, indeed, by the late Mr Knight, and his views have been adopted by some physiologists. Yet there is not only no proof of their correctness, but the strongest presumption to the contrary. It is superfluous to say that the Golden Pippin apple is the instance on which this theory mainly turns. It is said that it has worn out, and can no longer be cultivated. But the Golden Pippin still appears abundantly in Covent Garden Market; trees as healthy as ever are to be found in this country; we ourselves have seen it in Ireland, where there is no symptom of its decrepitude, and in Madeira it is in robust health. The wearing-out theory, therefore, falls to the ground."

"Who shall decide when doctors disagree?" Here are two of the most eminent authorities that could be cited on the subject, directly opposed to each other. Knight, renowned for his horticultural skill and knowledge, contends that races of plants *do* degenerate; Lindley, hardly less renowned for his attainments in botany and vegetable physiology, contends that *there is no* degeneration in races. Where shall we look for evidence to settle the question?

The common belief among practical men (I assume) is, that races do degenerate. What has this belief sprung from? If from accurate and long-continued observation, then it should not be pronounced a fallacy, without, at least, as strong evidence *against* its correctness can be adduced, as that which is brought to support it.

I am not able, nor is it my purpose in this, to attack or defend either doctrine entertained upon the question under notice: my object is to elicit facts from others, tending to settle the question—or to show which of the beliefs is *probably* correct.

The question in dispute is an interesting and important one. It is not uncommon to hear valuable varieties of fruit—the apple in particular—spoken of as being *on the decline*, or absolutely *worn out*; and this degeneration being considered the result of a fixed law of *nature*, it is not deemed of any use to employ the aid of art to invigorate them, or to attempt their cultivation longer, and they are permitted to languish, and perhaps perish. But if the degenerating theory be erroneous, then it is obvious that it is in the power of the fruit culturist to adopt a restorative process that will bring the languishing variety to its original thrift and vigor. The old and highly esteemed St. Michael Pear, was, by many, some years since, supposed to have become worn out, and fears were entertained of its speedy extinction. But this Pear now, is found in as flourishing state as ever.

We know this—that the natural habits of fruit-bearing trees have been essentially altered by man, that they might the more conduce to his profit. A signal instance of this is found in the treatment of that superior variety of the Apple known as the Newtown Pippin, practiced by R. L. Pell, Esq., of Pelham, N. Y., from an account of which, given by Mr P. in Downing's "Fruits and Fruit Trees of America," I extract the following:

"For several years past I have been experimenting on the apple, having an orchard of 20,000 bearing Newtown Pippin trees. I found it very unprofitable to wait for what is termed the 'bearing year,' and it has been my aim to assist nature so as to enable the trees to bear every year. I have noticed that from the excessive productiveness of this tree, it requires the intermediate year to recover itself—to extract from the earth and the atmosphere the materials to enable it to produce again. This it is not able to do, unassisted by art, while it is loaded with fruit, and the intervening year is lost. Three years ago, in April, I scraped all the rough bark from the stems of several thousand trees in my orchard, and washed all the trunks and limbs within reach with soft soap; trimmed out all the branches that crossed each other, early in June, and painted the wounded parts with white lead, to exclude moisture and prevent decay. I then, in the latter part of the same month, slit the bark by running a sharp-pointed knife from the ground to the first set of limbs, which prevents the tree from becoming bark-bound, and gives the young wood an opportunity of expanding. In July, I placed one peck of oyster-shell lime under each tree, and left it piled about the trunk until November, during which time the drought was excessive. In November, the lime was dug in thoroughly. The following year, I collected from these trees 1700 barrels of fruit, part of which was sold in New York for four, and part in London for nine dollars per barrel. In October, I manured these trees with stable manure, in which the ammonia had been fixed, and covered this immediately with earth. The succeeding autumn they were literally bending to the ground with the finest fruit I ever saw, while the other trees in my orchard not so treated, are quite barren, the last season having been their bearing year."

Thus it will be seen that, by the aid of art, the natural habit of the Newtown Pippin, has been materially altered—and "what man has done, man may do."

Admitting—what I am not prepared to admit—that nature has decreed the degeneration of races of plants, it seems to me a desideratum of great importance to learn, whether, by the application of his skill, man cannot avert the evils attendant on such degeneration; and I think the opinions of Prof. Lindley, above quoted, should encourage those who have embraced the degenerating belief, to try some such restorative or rejuvenating measures as those adopted by Mr Pell, before they give up trees as gone beyond remedy.

Respectfully, J. H. D.

For the N. E. Farmer.

TIME TO CUT TIMBER.

Mr Breck—I perceive from reports in your paper of the doings of the N. Y. Farmer's Club, that the question has been revived as to what season of the year is best for felling wood intended for timber and fuel.

Much has been written in support of different theories on this subject, and yet, as you observe, the question is still an unsettled one.

Without having any experience of my own to offer on either of the theories advanced, I will express the *opinion* that, as a general rule, wood wanted for durability, should be cut when the sap is *least liable to fermentation*—which is the immediate precursor of decomposition or decay. I presume this state of the sap to exist when there is *the least of it in the tree*—and this period I believe to be in the latter half of winter.

But my presumptions may all be fallacious, and therefore worthless. I hope some of your correspondents who can give *facts* on this highly important question, will be induced to do so.

It was stated at one of the meetings of the Club, that experiments had decided that there was as much sap in trees in winter as in summer. I believe this is contrary to the belief entertained by practical men generally—but can it be proved to be *true*? If so, then I conceive the *girdling* of trees in summer, intended to be felled for timber, would be an advisable measure. But I wait for others to speak on this subject, who can bring something better than *theory* to bear upon it, and clear away its perplexities.

With respect, yours, D.

SECOND AGRICULTURAL MEETING AT THE STATE HOUSE.

[We attended the second agricultural meeting, on Tuesday evening of last week, and took notes of the discussion: on our way to our residence in Brighton, we lost them—but this will be no loss to our readers, for the subjoined report by our friend Andrews, of the *Daily Evening Traveller*, is at least as perfect as would have been our own.]

The subject for discussion was, *the Preparation and Application of Manures.*

Hon. Morrill Allen, of Pembroke, opened the discussion. The composition of manures, he said, as represented in the books, seemed to be a difficult thing, and in many details it was actually so; yet the leading philosophical points might be stated in few words—every dead vegetable and animal embraced all the elements necessary to the formation of new vegetables and animals. The art of composing manures consisted in the retention of the volatile particles or gases, which, without care, were continually escaping. Common sense would lead farmers into such measures as would be effectual to accomplish this. There were methods more eligible than those in practice. Barn cellars were very good, but not exactly adapted to secure the object; because evaporation from the cellar might be nearly as great as if the manure were exposed to the atmosphere. Cellars, moreover, were not practicable for all farmers; and it was important to know by what other methods the end could be gained.

Very little escaped from the manure heap ordinarily in winter; but under the vernal influence of the sun, evaporation went on rapidly. Where manure was to be kept for autumn use, its virtues could not be retained without mixing it with other materials. Swamp mud was a valuable ingredient for composting, and where that could not be obtained, loam of almost any texture might be used. The soil from the road-side was the best. That of itself was a valuable manure. His practice had been, when he designed his manure for fall use, to cover it in the yard about four inches deep with loam, and let it lie through the summer till it was wanted for use. This effectually prevented the gases from escaping, which was the important point to be gained by those who wished to retain the virtues of their manure for their own soil, rath-

er than to allow them to escape for the benefit of the lands of their neighbors.

As to the application of manures, Mr Allen admitted that theories were against him. He began with a poor farm, and his chief object was to raise English hay. He had practiced top-dressing, and with such success that he had never been induced to give it up. It was said by many that this was "manuring the atmosphere;" but in his opinion, if manure was well composted, there was more benefit gained from inhalation than was lost from exhalation. The carbonic acid gas, so important to the growth of plants, was attracted by well composted manure. There was a *sensible* escape of this gas constantly going on in this city—more of it, sometimes, than was pleasant to him. It was floating on to the fields in the neighborhood; and he was sure that those fields which were well dressed with compost would inhale the most of it.

On the whole, he would recommend that most of the manure should be applied to the surface. That was the natural course, and it was wise to follow Nature.

In regard to the *season* for applying manure, Mr A. thought it was a matter of less importance than was generally imagined. He did it at all seasons, as he could find time; and farmers must consult their convenience about it.

Mr Allen concluded, in his pleasant manner, with a complimentary allusion to the presiding officer. His presence in that chair (the chair of the Speaker of the House of Representatives,) brought to mind agreeable recollections of former years. He congratulated him, that after honorably passing the ordeal of a squally congressional campaign, he had returned to the councils of his own State, and was now giving his countenance to the unassuming but important interests of Agriculture. Mr Allen took occasion also to remark, that if Congress would extend to Massachusetts the same protecting care which it bestowed upon other sections of the country, the people of this State could advance the great interests of Agriculture with their own hands, and would have no desire to avail themselves of the aid of human chattels.

Mr Dodge, of Hamilton, agreed with the gentleman from Pembroke, generally, as to the manner of composting in the barn-yard. He, however, had pursued a somewhat different method. He had been accustomed to cart in soil in the spring and turn the manure under, so as to bring the subsoil upon the top. This he had found a good way to cover up the manure, and at the same time to pulverize and incorporate it with the soil.

His experience of the effects of top-dressing, had induced him long since to abandon the practice. He had found that in dry seasons, the wind blew the compost away, and he lost the benefit of it; and on the whole he had not perceived that he got an adequate return for the trouble. He had resorted, with satisfactory results, to the old method of turning over old grass ground, and then applying dressing, and sowing down. As high as labor was with us, he had doubts about the economy of composting as much as was practiced. The same expense would be better applied in obtaining the raw material of good strong manure.

Mr Gardner, of Seekonk, spoke in commendation of the practice of composing manure. In allusion to the suggestion of Mr Dodge, that the labor of composting rendered the practice one of doubtful economy, he said that he was in the habit of making in his barn-cellar from seventyfive to one hundred loads of compost annually, with very little trouble to himself. He kept a company of laborers always in the cellar, who did the work well, but who rendered gratuitous service. He approved of top-dressing on low and wet soil, but on high and dry lands he had not found it beneficial.

Mr G. referred to the closing remark of Mr Allen, and said that if he had understood that gentleman right, he was glad to notice a change in his views in regard to the tariff, and that he was now desirous that agricultural as well as other interests should be protected. If he had mistaken the gentleman, he wished he would explain his meaning.

Mr Allen, with wonted promptness, remarked that he was quite ready to explain. He had merely meant to say, that if Congress would take equal care of all her children, Agriculture in Massachusetts would flourish, although there was no strong desire among her yeomanry for *an extension of the farm!*

Mr Earle, of Worcester, made some inquiries respecting the use of lime in composting manure. His impression was that much lime was used indiscriminately and injuriously. Mixed with vegetable substances it was undoubtedly beneficial; but it could not profitably be used with animal matter.

Mr Porter, of Marblehead, gave the result of an experiment made by him in composting. He mixed with four loads of meadow mud, two loads of barn manure, and added to it fifty bushels of unleached ashes. He also mixed with the same quantities of mud and manure, six casks slacked lime.

He used both these compost heaps—which were prepared with equal care—for planting potatoes, applying both in the same manner. The result was, that he had the earliest and best crop from the portion of land on which the compost prepared with ashes had been used. In the other case (where the lime was used,) the crop was not half as large, and the potatoes were very diminutive in size; and when the crop was dug, the compost was found in the hills, the pieces of mud not pulverized, and still unmixed with the manure.

Thomas Motley, Esq., of Boston, said his experience had been the same as that of Mr Porter, in the use of lime. Dr. Dana, in his work on the subject, had advised that lime should not be mixed with muck.

Mr M. remarked that he used much manure in a liquid state, which he thought was the cheapest and best way. He had built a tank in his yard, with a grating over it, and so arranged as to receive the liquid of the manure of the yard. From this tank the liquid was pumped when wanted for use, and applied to the field.

Mr M. also related an experiment of his in the use of guano. He manured a field of two and a half acres—one half of it with stable manure, and the other half with guano. The stable manure, at the customary prices, would cost $55 per acre, and the guano (short of 400 pounds being used,) cost, say $11 per acre.

In the first appearance of the crop (oats) there was no perceptible difference in the two parts. The guano portion, however, took the lead as the crop matured, and the oats filled out better—although both parts produced a heavy burden. The guano, therefore, proved at least to be equally beneficial, while the stable manure cost five times as much. His mode of applying guano was to mix it with soil—three parts of soil to one of guano—spread it broadcast over the field, and harrow or brush it in.

The subject of discussion next Tuesday evening, was announced to be—The Cultivation of Grass.

GYPSUM, OR PLASTER OF PARIS.

The Hon. John Lowell, in an article published in vol v. p. 1, of the New England Farmer, contradicts an idea which has been prevalent, that gypsum is of no use to lands near the sea-coast, and observes:

"I shall set out with the fact, that plaster has been used with success on lands on the seacoast of France, where the southwest wind, the prevalent one in summer, in that country, brings with it the ocean air; and in our country, in Massachusetts, for example, the prevalent winds do not bring with them an atmosphere filled with saline particles. It cannot, therefore, be the vicinity to the sea which renders gypsum inert and inefficacious with us. The cause of its inefficacy near the seacoast, must, therefore, be sought for in something else; in the nature of our soil, perhaps already sufficiently imbued with the constituent parts of gypsum, or in our free use of stable manure, which furnishes the plants with all the food they require.

I have been in a constant and invariable course of experiments on plaster, and these are the results:—It seems to be of no use, *ever*, to *clover*, on low meadow lands: of no use to *any* plants on a good, rich, well-manured soil. But I have three decisive proofs of its utility on dry, hilly, gravelly soil.

The first I shall mention, was an experiment made by the late R. S., Esq., of Roxbury, on a lofty hill of old pasture land. He applied plaster for several years, and his own conviction was, and it was also the full conviction of many others, that it materially improved the condition of his pasture. It was green at an earlier period, and the white clover came into it more generally and luxuriantly than into other lands in the same situation.

Seven years since, I applied plaster to a newly laid down field of clover, one-half of which was a dry, gravelly knoll, with very little vegetable soil. When it was fit for cutting, I showed it to the Trustees of the Massachusetts Agricultural Society, and without pointing out to them the part to which the plaster had been applied, they at once, on sight of it, detected and pointed out the superiority of the crop on the part to which the gypsum had been applied; and their designation agreed, by metes and bounds, with the stakes I had driven, indicating the part to which plaster had been applied, and which were then concealed by the grass. This superior crop was on a pure gravelly soil, far inferior to the rest, which was a deep rich loam.

This year, I had a piece of clover in its second year of growth. It was similarly situated. Two-thirds of it was a gravelly, thin soil. I cut the whole on the 10th day of June. The gravelly part, owing to the drought, did not yield more than half a ton to the acre. As soon as the hay was in, I gave a dressing of plaster to the gravelly knoll *only*, at the rate of three bushels to the acre. The effect has been as great as has ever been represented to be produced by gypsum in the interior. The second crop on the gravelly land, is *far superior* to that on a rich and deep soil in the same field.

I paid only four dollars for ten bushels, ground; and I applied only sixty cents' worth to this land, and am convinced that the plaster will increase the value of the second crop to five times the cost of the application."

Two fields of potatoes in this village, one dressed with tan-yard manure, in which was considerable lime, did not rot; the other, with barn manure, rotted considerably.—*Brunswick (Me.) pap.*

NEW ENGLAND FARMER,
AND HORTICULTURAL REGISTER.

Edited by Joseph Breck.

Boston, Wednesday, Jan. 28, 1846.

IRON IN SOILS.

Mr Editor—By the analysis of plants, the chemist ascertains what substances enter into their growth or composition, and when any particular substance is invariably found in particular plants, we are forced into the belief that that substance is necessary for their perfect development, and that there was a *design* connected with the fact.

Potash, silica, lime, phosphorus, &c, are universally present in the ash of plants, the cereal grains, &c. Iron is also another of the inorganic substances that enter into the composition of most plants, grains, &c., used as food for men and animals; and it is the oxide of iron, derived from the food, that gives the red color to blood, and it unquestionably has a specific office to perform in the animal system, "because it is constantly observed that, in those diseased states of the blood in which the red particles are deficient in quantity, the functions of life are languidly and imperfectly performed; and, still further, that this state is improved, and health amended, by the administration in medicine of the salts of iron."

Prof. Liebig, by a very beautiful and ingenious hypothesis, has assigned to the iron in the blood, the office of conveying oxygen from the lungs to every part of the animal system.

As iron is one of the indispensable constituents of plants, provision has been made for its distribution, in sufficient quantity, in most of our cultivated soils, without the necessity of its being artificially applied; and, unfortunately for many farmers, their soil contains altogether too much of it for the profitable growing of many kinds of crops. I have seen hundreds of acres of otherwise good land, that was so saturated with the salts of iron, in some form or other—either as a sulphate, or an oxide, or perhaps both—that, under common cultivation, it was impossible to raise a crop of Indian corn that would pay. And as far as my experience goes, I think oats, and other grain is more liable to rust, on soil containing iron in excess.

The owners of such lands go on year after year, in planting and harvesting their small crops of corn, without in any way understanding the *reason why* their crops should be so deficient.

Many tracts of land contain rocks and stones that are composed in a great part of sulphur and iron. When this kind of rock is dug, or plowed from the soil, and exposed to the atmosphere, they attract oxygen from the air, which, aided by moisture, combines with the iron, and forms an oxide of iron—rust—and the sulphur is set free, and that in its turn, combines with the oxygen, and sulphuric acid is formed: the acid and iron combine, and sulphate of iron (copperas) is the result. This is easily dissolved by the rains and melting snows, and the soil becomes saturated with copperas water—a most deleterious substance to many plants, especially Indian corn. Corn planted upon such a soil, may look well for two or three weeks after it has come up—or as long as it draws its support from the decomposing seed—but soon, as it puts out its small roots, and they begin to draw their food from the soil, the leaves assume a reddish or purplish color, and frequently the lower leaves dry up and perish, and the main root is corroded or eaten off within an inch or two of the bottom of the plants: after a while, new roots will start out from the base of the plant, and a light crop is too frequently the result. I have seen many fields of corn similar to the above described, and the owners laid all the blame to some kind of worm that had cut off the main root.

Such soils can be permanently improved by underdraining and subsoiling. Lime applied to such soils will have a good effect. If there is sulphate of iron, it will be decomposed by the action of the lime, which will be converted into gypsum, and with the addition of a reasonable quantity of manure, such soils will grow good crops of clover, or turnips.

But for those having such soils as I have described, who cannot underdrain nor purchase lime, there is one other remedy—*manure well*—and for a crop of corn, apply one or two pints of rich compost manure in the hill at the time of planting: the compost may be made with night-soil, hen dung, guano, or urine, or all, mixed with well rotted swamp muck, or good loam. (It is not a small job to manure an acre of land by putting a shovelful into each hill.) The small quantity of rich compost I have named, can be easily applied, and will be sufficient to give the corn a good start, and counteract the deleterious effects of the iron. On my farm, a single handful in the hill has more than doubled the quantity of corn and fodder—as you can testify, Mr Editor.

Gypsum does not generally, on such soils, produce much effect. The sulphate of iron is easily decomposed, and when ashes, lime, soda, or any other substance having a stronger affinity for the acid, than the iron has, is brought in contact with it in the soil, the acid leaves the iron, and combines with the ashes, lime, &c., and sulphates of potash, lime, &c. are formed; the iron is separated and becomes an oxide, or rust of iron. This is probably the way in which such quantities of iron ore, as it is called, have been formed, that are found in the hard, iron cemented subsoils of many farms. Every observing farmer who has plowed up the hard, cemented subsoil, knows that it will remain in hard pieces like frozen earth, for the first year. The iron in such cases is generally what is called protoxide of iron—iron combined with oxygen in the proportion of 77 per cent. iron, 23 per cent. oxygen. In this state it is soluble in water, and iron dissolved in water is not the best kind of *liquid* to manure our crops with. But the protoxide of iron, after being broken up by the plow, and exposed to the action of the atmosphere, combines with another portion of oxygen, and is converted into per-oxide of iron, which is not soluble in pure water. This change is produced by a combination of 69 parts of iron with 31 of oxygen. The oftener such soils are plowed, and stirred by the harrow, the better, as there will be a less amount of protoxide of iron in the soil.

We frequently see small pools of water that have oozed from the bottom of hills, in the summer season, covered with a redish pellicle, formed upon the surface of the water. This is protoxide of iron in solution—(dissolved in water.) It rises to the surface and combines with another equivalent of oxygen, and is changed to peroxide—it then falls to the bottom of the water and coats the soil or rocks with a sediment of *insoluble* peroxide of iron—that is, it is insoluble in pure water; but "both are soluble in water containing acids; the first, or protoxide, however, dissolves in much greater quantity in the same weight of acid, and it is the compounds of this oxide which are present in the soil, and which in boggy land, prove so injurious to vegetation." As far as my observation extends, johnswort, the trailing blackberry, and five-finger, seem natural products of such soils, and when laid down to grass, they generally run into red-top grass, after being mown one or two seasons. L. B.

SUCCESSFUL FARMING—VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PAPERS.

Mr Breck—In a recent No. of your paper, you proposed the following inquiry: "Are there not some among our readers, who, in their farming operations during the past year, have either *done* something, or *seen* something, which might benefit others, if publicly promulgated?" I have plodded on through the past year in my usual course, without *seeing* or *doing* anything that would particularly interest others; but as you appear desirous that your readers should *communicate*, I have concluded to give a brief account of my *doings* for the last *seven years*, which you may *promulgate*, if you think it worth anything to the public.

Eight years ago, I purchased a piece of land, large enough to be called a small farm, if it had contained buildings. It had been managed by the old system of farming, until the crops would scarcely pay the expense of cultivating. I let it out the first year on a lay, and when the crop was divided, my share was so small, that I was fairly sick of my purchase. I then offered to rent it, but no one would give me 4 per cent. on the cost. My friends advised me to manage it myself, for the purpose of improving the quality of the soil. My reply was, that I was no farmer—had done nothing at it since a boy, and had been more than 40 years engaged in other business. However, as there was no alternative, I very reluctantly prepared to commence operations, which looked very discouraging at the age of threescore, without experience, to engage in a new calling, that had proved disastrous to so many of my acquaintance, whose advantages were far superior to mine. But, as I said, there was no alternative: I took the "New England Farmer" for my chart, and embarked.

I divided my land, devoted to rotation crops, into 6 fields, of about 3 1-2 acres each: a new field was taken up every year, and first planted with corn, then with potatoes, and sown with winter rye in the fall after the potato harvest, and seeded down, remaining in grass three years before the rotation comes round. This course gives me one field to corn, one to potatoes, and one to rye, each year, and the other three to grass. I have, in addition, two acres of reclaimed bog, which is not plowed, and 1 1-2 acre for raising root crops and garden vegetables, planted every year; the whole making about 25 acres, which, with 2 or 3 acres of salt marsh, and a small piece of woodland, constitute my farm.

The first lesson I took in my new calling, was to plow no more than could be *well manured*, and to have *help* enough to do everything *in season*. This has not been lost sight of. My first crops were pretty fair, and have been gradually increasing from year to year, so that the same *land* which seven years ago would not rent for 4 per cent., has yielded more than 20, the past season, after paying all the expense of cultivation. My last crops were estimated at $900, and after deducting the cost of labor, board, manure, seeds, farming tools, taxes, &c., it leaves a balance of more than $550 for the rent land. Have sold over $600 worth, and the balance is laid in for my own consumption, which is estimated at the same price as that sold. I could give a copy of the account in detail if required.

It is no exaggeration in saying, *that I am more than a thousand dollars the better off for the information I have derived from agricultural papers during the last seven years*, in my small way of farming. From that source, I have learnt the best methods of composting manures, and the kinds best adapted to different soils; the best rotation of crops, the selection of seeds, and the method of cultivating each kind: also, how to reclaim bogs, of which I had two acres of no value, but which since that time have produced six tons of good hay annually. All this and much more I have gleaned from the experience of others, communicated through the medium of the *press*. But still, I am not so much of a "book farmer," as to believe one half that is published is of any benefit to ordinary farmers, like myself. I have tried *some* experiments recommended in your paper, that proved a real disadvantage. Yet I am fully of the opinion, that every farmer who can *read*, ought to take an agricultural paper; for by selecting such advice as will apply to his particular soils and crops, he can treasure up something, in the course of the year, that will be worth more than the cost of the paper. C.

Wickford, R. I., Jan. 1846.

☞We have not the pleasure of being personally acquainted with the writer of the above; but we are convinced he is both a skilful and thrifty cultivator and a discreet and sensible man. Were such farmers more common, we should not so often hear the complaint that "farming is a poor business." We wish him as much benefit from reading agricultural papers for the seven years to come, as he has derived from that source in the seven years last past, and hope that his valuable statements may induce others to follow his example, and with as gratifying success.

Our correspondent's apology for his hand-writing was unnecessary. We wish that younger men than he, and who are free from his infirmities, would write as legibly as he does, in their communications to us.

☞We are indebted to friends for the Transactions of the Plymouth County, (Mass.) and Hartford County, (Conn.) Agricultural Societies.

☞We are obliged to defer Mr Bickett's communication till our next.

THERMOMETRICAL.

Reported for the New England Farmer.

Range of the Thermometer at the Garden of the proprietor of the New England Farmer, Brighton, Mass in a shaded Northerly exposure, to the week ending Jan. 25.

Jan. 1846.		7 A.M.	12, M.	5, P.M.	Wind.
Monday,	19	1*	10	12	N. W.
Tuesday,	20	5	17	19	N. W.
Wednesday,	21	17	34	27	N.
Thursday,	22	6	2	13	N. W.
Friday,	23	14	25	21	N. W.
Saturday,	24	14	27	23	N. W.
Sunday,	25	30	44	38	S. W.

*Below zero.

BRIGHTON MARKET.—Monday, Jan. 26, 1846

Reported for the N. E. Farmer.

At market 520 Beef Cattle, 615 Sheep, and 60. Swine.—250 Swine which arrived at the close of the market are unsold.

Prices.—*Beef Cattle.*—We noticed two beautiful cattle from Westfield. Sold for $250. Prices generally advanced. We quote Extra $5,75 a $6,00. First quality $5,25 a $5,50. Second quality $4,75 a 5,25. Third quality $4,00 a 4,50.

Sheep.—We noticed a beautiful lot of Weathers. Sales at $3, $4 and $6. Ordinary Sheep from $2 to $2,75.

Swine.—Not in demand. Several small lots were sold, half barrows at 4 1-2. At retail from 4 1-2 to 6.

WHOLESALE PRICES CURRENT.

Corrected with great care, weekly.

SEEDS. Herds Grass, $0 00 a 2 50 per bushel. Red Top 00 to 60 cents. Clover—Northern, 11 to 11½c.—Southern, 10 a 11c. Flax Seed. $1 50 per bushel. Lucerne, 33 c. per lb. Canary Seed, $2 25 a 2 50 per bushel. Millet, 1 75 to 2 00.

GRAIN. The Grain market has shown an unusually dull aspect for the week past, with no sales of importance.

Corn—Northern, new, bushel 72 a 73—Southern, round yellow, 00 a 00—Southern flat yellow, 68 a 70—do. do. white 67 a 69—do New Orleans, 00 a 00—Barley 00 a 00—Rye, Northern, 85 a 87—do. Southern, 00 a 00—Oats Southern, 40 a 43—Northern do. 00 to 00—Beans, per bushel 1 50 a 1 62.—Shorts, per double bush. 50 a 55—Bran, 00 a 40.

FLOUR. The accounts per steamer, in connection with the moderate supplies on the seaboard, have given confidence to holders that present prices here will be fully sustained.

Baltimore, Howard Street, 4 mos. cr. new, $5 75 a 0 00—do. wharf, $0 00 a 5 62—do. free of garlic, $0 00 a 0 00—Philadelphia do. 4 mos. $0 00 a 0 00—Fredericksburg, low P'd new $0 00 a 5.62—Alexandria, wharf, 0 00 a 5 62—Georgetown, $5 75 a 5 87—Extra do. 0 00 a 0 00—Richmond Canal, $0 00 a 0 00—do. City, $0 00 a 0 00—Petersburgh, City, $0 00 a 0 00—do. Country $0 00 a 0 00—Genesee, common, cash, $5 75 a 5 87—do fancy brands, $6 00 a 6 25—Ohio via Canal, $5 50 a 5 68—do do New Orleans, cash $0 00 a 0 00. Rye, $0 00 a 5 00—Indian Meal in bbls. $4 00 a 4 25.

PROVSIONS. There has been, for all descriptions, a very limited demand during the past week.

Beef—Mess 4 mo. new bbl. $8 75 a 9 25—Navy—$7 75 a 8 25.—No. 1, $0 00 a 0 00—do Prime $5 75 a 6 00—Pork—Extra clear 4 mo. bbl. $15 00 a 00 00—do Clear $14 00 a 14 50 do. Mess, $13 00 a 13 75—do Prime $10 00 a 11 00—do Mess from other States,— a — —do Prime do do $0 00 a 0 00 do. Cargo do. 0 00 a 0 00—Clear do do $00 00 a 00 00—Butter, ship'ng, 12 a 14—do store, uninspected, 13 a 15—do dairy, 19 cts. a 20—Lard, No. 1, Boston ins. 8¼ a 8½—do South and Western, 8 a 8¼—Hams, Boston, 9 a 9½—Southern and Western, 0 a 0—Cheese, Ship'g and 4 meal 6 a 8—do new milk, 7¼ a 0.

WOOL. Duty. The value whereof at the place of exportation shall not exceed 7 cts. per pound, 5 per cent. ad. val. All whereof the value exceeds 7 cts. per pound, 40 per ct. ad. val. and 3 cts. per pound.

Sales of fine fleeces in considerable extent have been made during the past week, without any change in prices.

Prime or Saxony Fleeces, washed, lb. 40 a 42 c.—American full blood, do 37 a 38—Do. 3-4 do 32 a 33—Do. 1-2 do 30 a 31—1-4 and common do 27 a 30—Smyrna Sheep, washed, 20 a 22—Do. unwashed, 10 a 15—Bengasi do 5 a 12—Saxony, clean, 00—Buenos Ayres unpicked, 7 a 10—do. do. picked, 10 a 14—Superfine Northern pulled lamb 33 a 37—No. 1 do. do. do. 27 a 30—No. 2 do do do 18 a 20—No. 3 do do do 14 a 16.

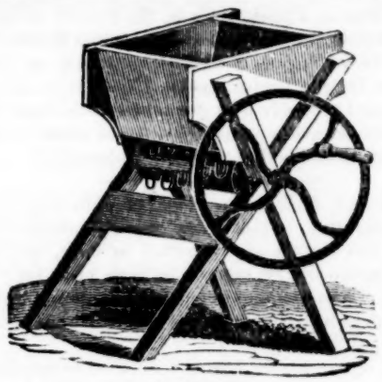
HOPS. Duty 20 per cent.

1st sort Mass. 1844, lb. 25 a 27 ; 2d do 00 a 00.

The sales the past week have been to supply the immediate wants of consumers. The English advices differ but little from those previous quoted.

HAY, 20 to 21 per ton—Eastern Screwed $17 to 18.

EGGS, 15 to 18.



WILLIS'S

Latest Improved Vegetable Cutter.

For sale at the New England Agricultural Warehouse, No. 51 and 52 North Market Street, Boston, Willis's Latest Improved Vegetable Cutter. This machine surpasses all others for the purpose of Cutting Ruta Baga, Mangel Wurtzel, and other roots. The great objection to other machines, is their cutting the roots into slices, which makes it almost impossible for the cattle to get hold of them: this machine with a little alteration, cuts them into large or small pieces, of such shape as is most convenient for the cattle to eat. It will cut with ease from one to two bushels of roots per minute. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

Nov. 1.

Guano! Guano!

Just received and for sale in lots to suit purchasers, 20 tons African and South American Guano, of superior quality, the best ever brought into this market. The African, which is part of the cargo of the brig Samos was analyzed by one of the first chemists of this country, and pronounced to be of the first quality; it has been fairly tested by many of the farmers and gardeners in the vicinity of Boston, and has fully equalled their highest expectations. We can fully recommend the South American, which has also been carefully analyzed, and found to be a splendid article, and very superior, being free from stones and hard substances. For sale by the ton, bbl. or bag. Orders addressed to JOSEPH BRECK & CO., 51 and 52 North Market street, will be promptly attended to.

Boston, March 25, 1845.

SEEDS AND TOOLS.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO. having received a full and general assortment of FIELD, GRASS, GARDEN and FLOWER SEEDS, worthy of cultivation, confidently recommend them as being pure and of the first qualities, unmixed with other varieties; they have no hesitation in saying that their collection of Seeds is the best, and of the greatest variety ever offered for sale at any establishment in the U. States.

AGRICULTURAL BOOKS of all kinds, constantly on hand.

AGRICULTURAL AND GARDEN IMPLEMENTS of all kinds, among which are the following, viz:—1000 Howard's Patent Cast Iron Ploughs, 200 Common do. do, 200 Cultivators, 100 Greene's Straw Cutters, 50 Willis' do. do. 100 Common do. do, 100 Willis' Patent Corn Shellers, 50 Common do. do, 200 Willis' Seed Sowers, 50 do. Vegetable Cutters, 50 Common do. do., 200 Hand Corn Mills, 200 Grain Cradles, 100 Ox Yokes, 1500 Doz. Scythe Stones, 3000 do. Austin's Rifles, 100 doz. Cast Steel Shovels, 150 do. Common do. 100 do. Spades, 500 do. Grass Scythes, 300 do. Patent Snaiths, 200 do. Common do., 500 do. Hay Rakes, 200 do. Garden do., 200 do. Manure Forks, 300 do. Hay do. 500 Pair Trace Chains, 100 do, Truck do. 100 do. Draft do, 500 do. Tie up do, 50 doz. Halter do, 1000 yards Fence do, 25 Grind Stones on Rollers.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.,

N. E. Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store, 51 and 52 North Market Street. Boston.

ROUSSINGAULT'S RURAL ECONOMY.

Boussingault's Rural Economy; Price $1,75. Downing's Book of Fruits; price $1,75. Stable Keeper's Companion; price $1,00. Also, a general assortment of *AGRICULTURAL WORKS.*

Boston, Sept, 10, 1845 JOS. BRECK & CO.

FOR SALE,

A *FARM* in Westboro', near the depot of the Boston and Worcester Rail Road, containing about twentyfive acres, well divided. Being the estate occupied by the late Nathan Fisher, Esq., deceased. If not sold previous to March 10th, the same will be rented. Refer to George Denny, Esq., Boston, Jabez G. Fisher, Esq. near the premises, or of the subscriber. NATHANIEL FISHER.

Westboro', Jan. 26, 1846. 3wis.

MARTIN'S MASSACHUSETTS PREMIUM EAGLE PLOWS.

The subscribers have for sale at their extensive Agricultural Warehouse, No. 51 & 52 N. Market street, *MARTIN'S MASSACHUSETTS PREMIUM IMPROVED EAGLE PLOWS.*

Mr. Martin's Plows combine new and important improvements adapting them to the different qualities of soil and the various modes and systems of culture. His Eagle Plows, as improved, are much longer, the mouldboard, landside and point, or share, all extended without any addition to the width or heel in its work; thus adapting this Plow to the more perfect turning under of the greensward, and inverting of the furrow-slice, so desirable in greensward plowing. The principle of these Plows is such, from where the furrow-slice is received upon the mouldboard to where it leaves it, that it enables the Plow to take up the furrow-slice with the greatest possible ease, bearing equally and lightly over the whole surface of the mouldboard, turning it over with the least possible bending or twisting, and preserving it flat, smooth and unbroken, laying the furrow-slices closely and compactly side by side, and creating but slight friction upon the face of the mouldboard in passing through the soil. Thus the Plow requires but very little power of draft beyond what is necessary to cut out the furrow-slice.

In testing the quality of Plows, the power by which it is moved, the ease with which it is handled, and the manner in which it completes the work, are three important points, all of which are wisely, accurately and judiciously preserved in these improved Plows.

The character of these Plows for ease of draft and management, and the excellence of their work, though well established in the minds of the farming community, were most fully and satisfactorily exhibited to the public at the grand trial of Plows by the Massachusetts Agricultural Society, at Worcester, October 9th, 1844, whose able and impartial committee awarded the highest premium of $50 to B. Martin, for the best Plow, for doing the best work with the least draft, in a trial open to the whole Union—this Plow running in its natural course, and keeping its true position, without any effort of the plowman, and turning a furrow 12 inches wide and 6 inches deep, with a much less draft than any other Plow on the ground.

These Plows, as improved, are considered to be nearest to perfection of any implements of the kind in this country, as well in respect to material and workmanship, as in form of construction.

At the late Cattle-Show and Plowing-Match of the Worcester County Agricultural Society, in the heart of that most valuable agricultural county, B. Martin's Plow received the highest and most enthusiastic commendation from intelligent and experienced practical farmers, who know and are the most competent judges.

His castings are of a superior kind, the workmanship not inferior to any other Plows in this country, and his timber being the very best of white oak; and every farmer knows that good timber in his Plows is of the utmost importance—all of which in fact renders B. Martin's Plow the very article every farmer wants. The high character of these Plows is abundantly sustained by a continued and extended patronage, which the manufacturer hopes by his efforts and exertions to retain. Being himself an experienced Plow-Maker, he will not spare any exertions in order to render his Plows a superior article.

Gentlemen are requested to call and examine these Plows before they purchase. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

Boston, March 24.

CORN SHELLER.

A Corn sheller is one of the most convenient and labor saving implements that the practical farmer has in use. Various machines for this purpose have been invented. It can be used in all cases for large or small sized ears. It is very simple in its construction, and durable in its operation, and no way liable to get out of order; one man can work it to good advantage, though a man to turn, and a boy to feed it, works it much better than one alone. They are so light and portable, as to be easily removed from place to place, and one machine will serve for several families or even the inhabitants of a small town.

For sale at the Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store Nos. 51 and 52, North Market Street.

JOS. BRECK & CO.

FARMERS' ALMANACK FOR 1846.

For sale at the N. E. Farmer Office, Thomas's Almanac for 1846, by the hundred or dozen.

Boston, Nov. 4.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A Story of Pocket Picking.—The Albany Citizen states the following case, (and says it may be relied on as authentic,) which illustrates the legerdemain of this wide-spread and dangerous species of villainy more thoroughly than any other we have heard of:

A few months since, a gentleman at the Astor House, in New York, suddenly missed a gold watch, which was worth more to him than it could be to anybody else. He marvelled much at is absence, for he knew that he had only been in and out of the office and reading-room of that hotel since he noted the hour by it.

In the hope of recovering it, he advertised his loss and offered a reward of $50. The same day he received a note informing him that he could have his watch by calling at a certain house in an obscure part of the city. After some little hesitation he resolved to go. The watch was too valuable to be given up, without at least this attempt to recover it. So he went. His rap at the door was promptly answered by a very gentlemanly looking person, who in reply to his inquiries, replied that he had in his possession the advertised watch, and that on payment of the offered reward, he would deliver it up. The loser promised to pay $50, provided he was convinced that the watch was his. It was exhibited, and the gentleman recognized it at once, paid the reward, and gladly placed the recovered treasure in his vest pocket. As he was turning to go away, he remarked—

"I am glad, as you may suppose, to get my watch back again, but I should really be pleased to know how you took it from me."

"That I will inform you," readily replied the pickpocket. "Do you remember holding an animated conversation with two gentlemen in the reading room of the Astor House, on the morning you lost your watch?"

"I do," replied the loser.

"Well, do you not also remember that a gentleman who stood close by, left his newspaper, drew near, and finally joined in the discussion?"

"Very distinctly," replied the other, "and also that he engaged in it with much warmth?"

"Precisely," continued the narrator, "and do you not remember that he at one time, in his earnestness, tapped you two or three times on the left breast, *thus?*"—(suiting the action to the word.)

"Yes," replied the gentleman.

"*Then* I took your watch," said the rogue, and turning, shut the door and disappeared.

The gentleman returned to the Astor, musing on this strange occurrence, and while relating it to some of his wondering friends, was astonished to find that his watch was again missing! When the adroit knight of the nimble fingers described how he had once filched from him his watch, *he took it again!* So the gentleman finally lost his watch, after having paid to the thief the reward for its recovery.

A New Englander, sojourning in one of the Southwestern States, seemed particularly disposed to astonish the other passengers with him on board a steamboat with tough stories about Yankeedom. At last he mentioned that one of his neighbors owned an immense dairy and made a million pounds of cheese yearly. This story produced some sensation, and the Yankee perceiving that his veracity was in danger of being questioned, appealed to a friend as follows:

"True as a book, is n't it, Mr P——? I speak of Deacon Brown—you know Deacon Brown!"

"Ye-e-s," replied the friend—"that is, yes, I know Deacon Brown, though I don't know as I ever heard precisely how *many* pounds of butter and cheese he *makes* a year—but I do know he has twelve sawmills that all go by buttermilk!"

Clerical Calls.—An exchange, alluding to the fact that most of the "calls" which modern clergymen feel so imperatively bound to obey, are from comparatively low salaries to high ones, says that these "calls" remind him of the honest old negro's anecdote, which, though well known, is good enough to repeat often.

A certain divine, having concluded to change his pastoral situation, mentioned his determination from the pulpit. After service was over, an old negro who was one of his admirers, went up to him and desired to know his motives in leaving his flock: the parson answered "he had a call." "Wherefrom, massa?" said the negro. "The Lord," answered the parson. "Massa, what you get for preaching here?" "Six hundred dollars, Cæsar." "And what you get toder place?" "A thousand." "Ah, massa: de Lord call you till he be blind from $1000 to $600—you no go!"

Capt. Sleeper, of the Boston Mercantile Journal, tells the following joke which a sea-faring acquaintance of his played upon himself. Being in a place where pickpockets abounded, he lined his pockets with fish-hooks, ingeniously arranged so as to catch and hold the hand of any intruder. And it worked to a charm, for it caught his own hand, and tore it horribly, in less than an hour after he had set his trap to catch a rogue!

Every man has just as much vanity as he wants understanding.

HOWARD'S PREMIUM SUBSOIL PLOWS.

The subsoil Plow is unquestionably the most importan agricultural implement of modern invention. It is considered by the best informed practical farmers of Great Britain and our own country, as an indispensable article in the most profitable husbandry. Says that eminently skilful and intelligent agriculturist, Mr. Phinney, of Lexington: "such is the estimate in which I hold this important implement, that I should consider it a great piece of improvidence to put in a crop without first subsoiling the ground." The subsoil Plows manufactured by Mr. Howard, are of two sizes—the smaller obtained the highest premium offered by the State Agricultural Society at its late exhibition at Worcester. The committee to award the premium on Subsoil Plows, in their report say:—"The committee were pleased with the neatness and firmness of structure of these Plows—characteristics which have distinguished all the Plows of Mr. Howard that have come within their observation. *Utility* and not *show*, are their peculiar features. * * They were astonished to find with what ease and perfection the hard pan could be stirred, and broken to the depth and width of 8 or 9 inches, for such was the operation of the medium size Plows, with a power not exceeding that ordinarily required for moving a surface Plow at the same depth—and they found the Plow might be guided with less labor ahd fatigue than the surface Plow. * * They confidently recommend the subsoil Plow to the attention of the farmers of the Commonwealth."

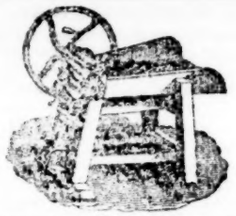
The improvement in the length of the handles of Mr. Howard's Plows, suggested by the committee, has been made—and the undersigned are now prepared to furnish these invaluable implements wholesale and retail.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

N. E. Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store, 51 & 52, North Market Street, Boston.

GRINDSTONES ON FRICTION ROLLERS.

Grindstones of different sizes hung on friction rollers and moved with a foot treader, are found to be a great improvement on the old mode of hanging grindstones. Stones hung in this manner are becoming daily more in use and wherever used, give universal satisfaction. The rollers can be attached to stones hung in the common way. For sale by J. BRECK & Co. No. 51 North Market street.



GREEN'S PATENT STRAW CUTTER.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO. at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store Nos. 51 and 52 North Market Street, have for sale, Green's Patent Straw, Hay and Stalk Cutter, operating on a mechanical principle not before applied to any implement for this purpose. The most prominent effects of this application, and some of the consequent peculiarities of the machine are:

1. So great a reduction of the quantum of power requisite to use it, that the strength of a half grown boy is sufficient to work it efficiently.

2. With even this moderate power, it easily cuts two bushels a minute, which is full twice as fast as has been claimed by any other machine even when worked by horse or steam power.

3. The knives, owing to the peculiar manner in which they cut, require sharpening less often than those of any other straw cutter.

4. The machine is simple in its construction, made and put together very strongly. It is therefore not so liable as the complicated machines in general use to get out of order.

HOWARD'S IMPROVED EASY DRAUGHT PLOUGH.

Great improvements have been made the past year in the form and workmanship of these Ploughs; the mould board has been so formed as to *lay the furrow completely over, turning in every particle of grass or stubble, and leaving the ground in the best possible manner.* The length of the mould board has been very much increased, so that the Plough works with the greatest ease, both with respect to the holding and the team. The Committee at the late trial of Ploughs at Worcester, say,

"Should our opinion be asked as to which of the Ploughs we should prefer for use on a farm, we might perhaps say to the inquirer, if your land is mostly light and easy to work, try Prouty & Mears, but if your *land is heavy, hard orrocky,* BEGIN WITH MR. HOWARD'S."

At the above mentioned trial the Howard Plough *did more work, with the same power of team, than any other plough exhibited.* No other turned more than twentyseven and one half inches, to the 112 lbs. draught, while the *Howard Plough turned twentynine and one half inches, to the same power of team!* All acknowledge that Howard's Ploughs are much the strongest and most substantially made.

There has been quite an improvement made on the shoe, or land side of this Plough, which can be renewed without having to furnish a new landside; this shoe likewise secures the mould board and landside together, and strengthens the Plough very much.

The price of the Ploughs is from $6 to $15. A Plough sufficient for breaking up with four cattle, will cost about $10 50, and with cutter $1, with wheel and cutter, $2 50 extra.

The above Ploughs are for sale, wholesale and retail, a the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store Nos. 51 & 52 North Market Street, by

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

NEW ENGLAND FARMER,

A WEEKLY PAPER.

Terms, $2 per year *in advance*, or $2 50 if not paid within sixty days.

Remittances, *not exceeding ten dollars*, at any *one time*, may be made as follows:—A subscriber owes us two or eight dollars, which he wishes to remit us. He will pay this amount to the Post Master *in his own town*, and take his *receipt* for it, as money paid him on *our* account. He will then send that *receipt*, enclosed in a letter, *to us*. We pass it to the Post Master in Boston, and get the money for it. This arrangement does away with nearly the whole risk of making remittance, and puts every subscriber in possession of "suitable funds" for that purpose.

TUTTLE AND DENNETT, PRINTERS
21 SCHOOL STREET.